

## OPE Revising Ideas and Examples

1. Is the question at the top of the paper?
2. Is there a title and does it reflect the main idea of the paper?
3. Does the thesis statement specifically answer the question that expresses an arguable idea OR does it give a vague answer that is not arguable?
4. Does the thesis include the title and author?
5. Does the paper analyze or summarize? Eliminate unnecessary summary! (While you're at it, eliminate unnecessary wordiness.)
6. Does the textual evidence support the thesis?

Quotations: What evidence does each quotation (textual evidence) provide?

- Are they too long or too short? Do they actually support your thesis?
- What does each of your quotations prove?:

Quotation #1:

What does it prove?

Does the author identify the speaker, listener, and context of the quotation?

Do you explain the significance of this quotation immediately before or after the quotation in the essay?

YES or NO (fix it if no)

Quotation #2:

What does it prove?

Does the author identify the speaker, listener, and context of the quotation?

Do you explain the significance of this quotation immediately before or after the quotation in the essay?

YES or NO (fix it if no)

6. Verb tenses: Have you used the present tense of verbs to describe both the author's work and the action in the work (for example, Chopin shows (not 'has shown') or Mrs. Mallard dies (not 'died'))? Look up 'literary present' if you are confused.
7. Conclusion: Does it end with the "So What" factor – explaining why your essay is important for understanding the text?

**ADD: Each OPE must include one sentence pattern!!**

## Essay #1

Question: How do Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde perceive each other?

Title: Father and Son

In *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson, the relationship between the two title characters almost reflects that between an aging father and his oldest son. As Dr. Jekyll comes to rely increasingly on living through his alter ego, Mr. Hyde, he finds that the two personas regard each other differently. "Jekyll (who was composite) now with the most sensitive apprehensions, now with a greedy gusto, projected and shared in the pleasures and adventures of Hyde; but Hyde was indifferent to Jekyll, or but remembered him as the mountain bandit remembers the cavern in which he conceals himself from pursuit" (36). Jekyll feels like an old man, relying on the youth and freedom of Hyde to live the life of uninhibited pleasure and passion he had always wanted to live, but had not been able to in his own lifetime. In a way, he loves and longs for Hyde, much like a father loves his son, and protects him with his reputation and public persona. Meanwhile, Hyde acts the detached son, who does not care for his "father" except as a place of refuge to hide behind. Much like the way many older parents unsatisfied with their own monotonous lives try to live vicariously through their children, Dr. Jekyll tends to perceive Mr. Hyde as his child or his younger self. Unfortunately, this fondness leads to his own obsession and downfall.

## Essay #2

Question: Why does Dr. Jekyll desire to become Mr. Hyde?

Title: Freedom

In the novella, *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, by Robert Louis Stevenson, Dr. Jekyll experiments on himself using a chemical formula, which turns him into a monstrous dwarf. This dwarf goes by the name of Mr. Hyde, and he is portrayed as an evil man with evil intentions. Strangely enough, Dr. Jekyll has a positive outlook on this different body, although it is portrayed as "deformed" in the views of the other characters. Jekyll finds himself attracted towards this evil side of himself, as he is given youth and freedom in this new body of Mr. Hyde. "There was something strange in my sensation, something indescribably new and, from its very novelty, incredibly sweet." (pg. 25) Physically, Dr. Jekyll felt younger again in Hyde's body. This is his first experience being Mr. Hyde, and it's interesting how he feels oddly comfortable in this body. Since Jekyll is a renowned doctor, he always has to be proper and wise in public, to keep his reputation. In the body of Hyde, however, he feels the freedom of being a different person – spontaneous and gutsy. He describes that his experiences as Hyde were consisted of "leaping impulses and secret pleasures" (pg. 27) Therefore, Dr. Jekyll considers Mr. Hyde as a part of himself, because "man is not truly one, but truly two." In conclusion, the temptation of turning into Hyde grows as Jekyll grows accustomed to the freedom and secrecy of Hyde's persona.